



## Hermosa Beach City Manager's Office City Council Meeting Updates 05.28.19

A brief summary of important City Council updates discussed during the May 28, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting are provided below.

### May 28, 2019 ([Meeting Agenda](#))

**Recognition of the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission for Their Service to the City of Hermosa Beach** – Council recognized Rabbi Gila Katz, Al Benson, Dave Buckland, Michael Detoy, Bill Hallett and Nadine Skye-Davis for their years of dedicated service as Commissioners on the City's Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission.



**Update from Jim Fasola – City Delegate to the Los Angeles County West Vector & Vector-Borne Disease Control District Board of Trustees** – Delegate Jim Fasola advised that the L.A. County West Vector Control District would be working with the Coastal Commission to issue permits to the County and City to restart clearance of beach storm drains (6 County/12 City) to assist in removing mosquito breeding grounds. Reducing trench drains, sumps and vaults via the permitting process along with other sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed is also recommended. For more information on addressing mosquitoes and other vectors, please visit L.A. County West Vector Control's [website](#) or view their [brochure](#).

**Southern California Edison 2019 Circuit Reliability Report for Hermosa Beach** – SCE representatives reported that due in large part to \$14 million in recent electrical system investments, average annual outage time per customer improved markedly from over 3 hours in 2015 & 2016 to about an hour in 2018. The frequency of sustained interruptions (>5 minutes) also decreased; however, Hermosa Beach remains slightly above the system average. SCE advised \$1,000 rebates are available for electric vehicle purchases or leases; please visit their [website](#) for more information.

**City Manager Updates** – City Manager Suja Lowenthal provided updates on the following items:

- **Herondo Drain Infiltration Project** – On May 21, 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board sent the City a letter of intent to withdraw the \$3.1 million infiltration project grant due to uncertainty of the project site and concern over timely implementation due to required agency approvals, new study and design, a potential change in grant recipient/lead agency and community buy-in. On May 16, 2019, the City received a letter from the City of Redondo Beach indicating it would be premature to transfer lead agency status to Redondo Beach and amend the Beach Cities Watershed Group



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Memorandum of Understanding, prior to Hermosa Beach conducting a study of the North Franciscan Avenue site in Redondo Beach, as stipulated by Council during the April 11, 2019 meeting. Staff and the Council Infiltration Subcommittee are working with project partners Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance on next steps; the State Water Board advised the group could re-apply for project grant funding in fall 2019.

- **Ballot Measures - Transient Occupancy Tax and Tax on Plastics** – staff will return to Council with a future agenda item to consider ballot measures to adjust the City's Transient Occupancy Tax, currently 12% on hotel stays, and introduce a tax on plastics.

**Consent Calendar Items:**

- **Bicycle Infrastructure** – as recommended by the Public Works Commission, Council approved the design and installation of sharrows on Pier Avenue (Hermosa Avenue to Ardmere Avenue) and Ardmere Avenue (Pier Avenue to north City limit); and a Manhattan Avenue bike lane from 35<sup>th</sup> Street to Neptune Avenue/1<sup>st</sup> Street to connect to bike lanes in Manhattan Beach.
- **Independent Audit Services Contract Award** – Council awarded a three-year contract to Gruber and Associates to audit the City's financial statements and prepare State Controller's reports in an amount not to exceed \$88,139 with an option to extend for two additional years.
- **Land Development Engineering Services Agreement Modification** – Council approved a second amendment to M6 Consulting, Inc's agreement for plan check services in the amount of \$60,000 and extended the term by four months through December 31, 2019 to allow the Public Works Department time to competitively bid and recommend award of a new agreement for these services. M6's agreement was initially executed in February 2016 and will have a new not-to-exceed amount of \$310,000.
- **Ordinance to Retire the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission** – Council introduced on first reading an ordinance to repeal Chapter 2.38 of the Municipal Code and retire the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission per direction from the April 23, 2019 Council meeting. An Emergency Preparedness Advisory Board will be formed in the near future to continue emergency preparedness and community awareness efforts.
- **Planning Commission Meeting Decision - Slater's 50/50 Restaurant** – Council elected to take jurisdiction of a matter on the May 21, 2019 Planning Commission agenda. The agenda item included approval of amendments to Slater's 50/50 restaurant's conditional use permit and parking plan for 3-11 Pier Avenue to expand an outdoor dining area. Consideration of proposed alterations, including installation of umbrellas, sightline impacts, and construction of a 42" high wall by the Strand will be brought before Council at a future meeting.



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**Ordinance to Ban the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products in All Tobacco Retail Establishments –**

Council adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 5.78 of the Municipal Code to ban all retailers within City limits from selling flavored tobacco products in order to reduce tobacco and nicotine addiction. The ban will take effect on June 27, 2019.

**Public Hearing: Annual Sewer Service Charge Levy and Engineer's Report –**

Council adopted a resolution to increase the annual sewer service charge levy, which funds maintenance and repair of the City's sewer system (aging pipe replacements), by 2% effective July 1, 2019. Seniors 65 years of age or older and disabled individuals with an annual income of \$75,000 or under are eligible for a rebate; visit the Finance Department's [website](#) for more details. Staff noted that of the \$5.113 million collected since 2015-16, \$5.25 million has been appropriated in sewer projects. Annual sewer service charges by land use type:

| Land Use                | Fiscal Year 2018-19  | Fiscal Year 2019-20 (+2%) | Change  |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------|
| Single Family           | \$121.69   | \$124.12                  | +\$2.43 |
| Condominiums            | \$121.69   | \$124.12                  | +\$2.43 |
| Multi-Family (per unit) | \$73.01  | \$74.47                   | +\$1.46 |
| Vacant Parcels          | \$60.85  | \$62.06                   | +\$1.21 |
| Non-Residential         | 2% increase - based on water consumption in gallons per day /<br>260 gallons per day per Single Family Residential Unit x \$124.12 |                           |         |

**Special Event Fee Waiver Requests –** Council approved a 50% fee waiver in the amount of \$140 for the [Best Day Foundation's](#) Beach Day events for special needs youth, ages 4 to 22, south of the Pier on June 15-16, 2019 and September 14-15, 2019.

**Beach Cities Transit Line 109 Agreement –** Council approved an agreement with the City of Redondo Beach for the City to continue participating in [Beach Cities Transit Line 109](#) bus service (established in 2006 from Redondo Beach Riviera Village to the LAX Bus Center via Hermosa Avenue/Manhattan Avenue) for an additional year through June 30, 2020 at a cost of \$0. Redondo Beach advised that due to recent transportation funding additions from Measure M and SB-1 (State Transit Assistance), participating agency contributions will not be needed for fiscal year 2019-20. Hermosa Beach had previously contributed \$10,400 to \$12,400 per year through fiscal year 2017-18 from Proposition A funding for its 11% share of this service, with El Segundo (38%) Redondo Beach (35%) and Manhattan Beach (16%) contributing the remainder. Joyce Rooney from Beach Cities Transit noted that real time information is expected to be available in Spring 2020 for all buses within their transit system.

**Elected City Clerk Salary and Duties Resolution –** Council approved a resolution to set the duties of an elected City Clerk with salary and benefits equivalent to the City Treasurer (currently \$6,360 per year) effective December 1, 2019, should the November 5, 2019 ballot measure seeking approval of an appointed City Clerk fail. Per Council direction on January 22, 2019, voters will be asked to consider changing the elected City Clerk to an appointed position to reflect the increasing responsibilities of the City Clerk's department. As part of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget, the City has requested the addition of a full-time permanent appointed executive City Clerk position. If the ballot measure fails, elected City Clerk duties would be ministerial and in accordance with State governmental code. Should the ballot measure pass, the



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resolution will be void. The resolution will not impact current City Clerk Elaine Doerfling who will be retiring in November 2019.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- **Letter of Support for H.R. 1487 Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act** – Council approved sending a letter of support for [H.R. 1487](#), a bill introduced by Congressman Ted Lieu, to commission the National Park Service to conduct a three-year study to add Santa Monica Bay coastal communities, including Hermosa Beach, to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Inclusion in a National Recreation Area would make the City eligible for federal recreation and conservation funding and infrastructure improvements to parks, trails, restrooms, picnic areas, parking lots and signage, along with other benefits.
- **Downtown Subcommittee** – Mayor Armato and Councilmember Massey advised project funding will be requested in the current fiscal year to replace car-scratching Hermosa Avenue median plants with drought-tolerant plants and irrigation improvements (\$28,800); and renovate park restrooms including Valley Park (\$16,400).
- **Fiesta Subcommittee** – Councilmember Duclos requested a subcommittee meeting to debrief Fiesta Hermosa activities with Community Resources and Chamber of Commerce staff.
- **South Bay Cities Council of Governments** – Councilmember Fangary advised on a recent presentation of cannabis related issues. Councilmember Massey and Mayor Pro Tem Campbell will work with staff to research cannabidiol (CBD) issues, including reducing sales from non-licensed cannabis sources.

**Other Matters:**

- **Contract Cities Association Membership** – Councilmember Duclos requested a future agenda item to consider the City withdrawal from the Contract Cities Association given a recent fight between two Councilmembers from other cities at a recent conference.

**THE HERMOSA BEACH CITY COUNCIL, HERMOSA BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND BEACH CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT WILL HOLD A TRI-AGENCY STUDY SESSION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS YOUTH HEALTH ISSUES ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019 AT 6 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019.**

Questions or comments? Contact the Assistant to the City Manager Nico De Anda-Scaia Monday through Thursday, 7AM – 6PM at (310) 318-0201 or via email at [ndeanda@hermosabch.org](mailto:ndeanda@hermosabch.org)



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To download a .pdf of previous City Manager Community Updates, please click on the links below:

- [City Manager Community Updates: 05.14.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 04.23.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 04.11.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 03.28.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 03.14.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 02.28.19](#)
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- [City Manager Community Updates: 01.22.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 01.15.19](#)
- [City Manager Community Updates: 01.08.19](#)